

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/805,049

Applicant(s)

ZHANG, GEORGE HUANYI

Examiner

Brigitte R. Hammond

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 8-16 and 19-21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 3/18/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.



EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Wei Te Chung on September 14, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows: **In claim 1**, line 9, deleted "." and inserted - - ; wherein the contacts are grouped into a first, a second and a third set of contacts respectively received in the first, the second and the third tongue sections: wherein the tongue portion comprises a first surface and an opposite second surface both extending in a longitudinal direction of the tongue portion, and wherein the first and the second sets of contacts are located in the first surface of the tongue portion and the third set of contacts are located in the second surface of the tongue portion. - - ; in claim 8, line 1, changed numeral "6" to - -1- -; **in claim 14**, line 12, deleted "." and inserted - - ; wherein the first contacts comprise a first, a second and a third set of first contacts respectively received in the first, the second and the third tongue sections, and wherein the first and the second sets of first contacts are arranged on the same row and the third set of first contacts are arranged on a second row; wherein the thickness of the third tongue section is greater than each of those of the first and the second tongue sections.- - ; **in claim 19**, line 5, after "defining" deleted "at least", after "first" inserted - - , - - , before "second" deleted "and", after "second" inserted - - and third - -; **in line 9**,

after the first occurrence of "first" inserted - - , - - , before "second" deleted "and", after "second" inserted - - and third - - , after the second occurrence of "first" inserted - - , - - , before "second" deleted "and", after "second" inserted - - and third - - ; **in line 10**, after "said" inserted - -first, second and third- - ; **in line 12**, deleted "the" and inserted - - said first, second and third- - ; **in line 14**, deleted "all" and "both", after "are" inserted - - all - - , after "said" inserted - -first, second and third- - ; and in line 15, after "board" inserted - - ; wherein, a thickness of said second section is larger than those of the first and third sections- - ; **and claims 6,7,17 and 18 are canceled.**

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-5,8-16 and 19-21 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: regarding claims 1 and 14, patentability resides, at least in part, in the housing having a tongue portion comprising three sections, the third section connecting the first and second sections, wherein the thickness of the third section being greater than the other sections, in combination with the other limitations of the base claims, and regarding claim 19, patentability resides, at least in part, in the housing having contacts with mating contact portions exposed to an exterior and tail portions located on the same plane, a tongue portion comprising three sections in sequence along a longitudinal direction, wherein the thickness of the second section being greater than the other sections, in combination with the other limitations of the base claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Zell 4,173,387, Chen et al. 5,472,354, Davis et al. 5,575,674, Wu 6,648,682, Zhang 6,746,281, Smith et al. 6,250,932 and Oliphant et al. 6,488,543 were cited for similar connectors.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. and Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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✓ *Brigitte Hammond*

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